



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HUANG et al.

CASE NO: CL1943 US NA

SERIAL NO: 10/630,248

GROUP ART UNIT: 1762

FILED: JULY 30, 2003

EXAMINER: J. LIN

FOR: MICROPARTICLE-BASED METHODS  
AND SYSTEMS AND APPLICATIONS  
THEREOF

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Non-Final Office Action mailed on July 3, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 5-17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Templeton et al., Langmuir 15:66-76 (1999), in view of Foos et al., Chem. Mater. 14:2401-08 (2002). Specifically, the Examiner asserted that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used an ethylene glycol oligomer in the preparation of water-soluble gold nanoparticles of Templeton because Foos teaches that an ethylene glycol oligomer can increase the water solubility of a gold nanoparticle."

I, Ming Zheng, declare that water soluble metallic nanoparticles having a mixed monolayer of a capture coating component and a shielding component were reduced to practice in the United States prior to the online publication date of Foos et al. (April 19, 2002). Further to this declaration, I attach notebook pages signed by me and witnessed by co-worker Won Chul Suh (Exhibits 1 and 2), with dates redacted, that exemplify the reduced to practice water soluble metallic nanoparticles made through ligand exchange reactions (Exhibit 1) and through direct synthesis reactions (Exhibit 2).

As a person signing below:

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true. I also declare that all statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements, and the like, are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and any such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of either the patent application or any patent issuing thereon.

Respectfully Submitted,



12/04/06

Ming Zheng

Date